



## NEWS RELEASE

**NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090**

**Joint Information Center (JIC)**

**Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily**

July 13, 2011, 4 p.m. CDT

**CONTACT:** (402) 471-2478 [jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov)

### Nebraska JIC Daily Update

## Major Disaster Declaration Requested

**Lincoln, Neb** – Gov. Dave Heineman has submitted a formal request for a Major Disaster Declaration to the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII in the wake of flooding, severe storms, high winds, tornados, rain and hail that have occurred in 29 Nebraska counties since May of this year.

Public Assistance is being requested to help local, state and tribal governments, as well as some nonprofit organizations in 27 Nebraska counties. Public Assistance can help with eligible costs to remove storm debris, take emergency protective measures and repair or replace disaster-damaged roads, bridges, public buildings, critical facilities, such as water, sewer and power systems and other public facilities. Those counties are:

Buffalo, Burt, Cass, Cedar, Chase, Cheyenne, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Dundy, Garden, Hamilton, Hayes, Knox, Lincoln, Logan, Nemaha, Otoe, Phelps, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson, Sarpy, Scotts Bluff, Thurston, Washington and York.

The request also includes individual assistance in the following counties:

Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Polk, Sarpy and Washington.

The Governor's request will be reviewed by the FEMA regional office in Kansas City before being forwarded to the White House for a decision.

For the entire release visit: [http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/news/2011/07/13\\_fed\\_disaster.html](http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/news/2011/07/13_fed_disaster.html)

### **UPDATED National Guard**

There are 118 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen providing direct support of the flooding emergency.

The Nebraska National Guard continues to conduct 24-hour levee monitoring missions in support of local and county emergency management officials in South Sioux City, Omaha, the Papio-Missouri River NRD and in Nemaha County.

The Nebraska National Guard continues to assist Cass County officials in levee monitoring, logistical support and the protection of critical infrastructure.

The Nebraska National Guard continues to conduct aerial monitoring of Missouri River levees while other Nebraska National Guard Soldiers are on alert in Lincoln to conduct aerial sandbagging operations in the event that it's needed.

### **No Changes Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended alternate routes:**

**To and from Kansas:** use **Highway 77** out of Lincoln and **Highway 81** out of York.

**Across Nebraska:** I-80 is expected to remain safe and dry route throughout the flooding months.

**Strongly suggested route:** If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

**Avoid Highway 75** because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.  
**Avoid Highway 77** north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

**No Changes Road Closures** Call 511 or check online at [www.roads.ne.gov/flood/](http://www.roads.ne.gov/flood/) or [www.511.nebraska.gov](http://www.511.nebraska.gov) before traveling.

**Highway 2** is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

**Highway 12** is closed east of Niobrara from the east edge of Niobrara to the Santee Spur. A west section of **Highway 12** is also closed from Verdel to approximately three miles west of Niobrara.

**Highway 14/37** is closed from the junction with **Highway 12** to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge). **Highway 14** is open going south from the junction of **Highway 12**.

**Highway 175** at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if mitigation work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

**Highway 136** is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side.

**Highway 159** is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

**I-680** into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

**UPDATED River Levels** — National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of today:

**Platte River**

**Henry** – 5.01 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet

**Mitchell** – 6.36 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

**Minatare** – 5.32 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

**Bridgeport** – 6.85 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet

**Lisco** – 2.96 feet, flood stage is 4 feet

**Lewellen** – 7.65 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

**North Platte** – 6.58 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

**Brady** – 6.79 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

**Cozad** – 5.18 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

**Overton** – 5.19 feet, flood stage is 7 feet

**Kearney** – 5.11 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

**Grand Island** – 5.29 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

**Duncan** – 5.46 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

**North Bend** – 4.94 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

**Leshara** – 6.09 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

**Ashland** – 16.78 feet, flood stage is 20 feet

**Louisville** – 5.11 feet, flood stage is 9 feet

**Missouri River**

**Verdel** – 29 feet, flood stage is 24 feet

**Niobrara** – 26.66 feet, flood stage is 21 feet,

**South Sioux City** – 34.39 feet, flood stage is 30 feet

**Decatur** – 39.9 feet, flood stage is 35 feet

**Blair** – 31.49 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

**Omaha** – 34.64 feet, flood stage is 29 feet

**Plattsmouth** – 34.72 feet, flood stage is 26 feet

**Nebraska City** – 24.48 feet, flood stage is 18 feet

**Brownville** – 39 feet, flood stage is 33 feet

**Rulo** – 24.67 feet, flood stage is 17 feet



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

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